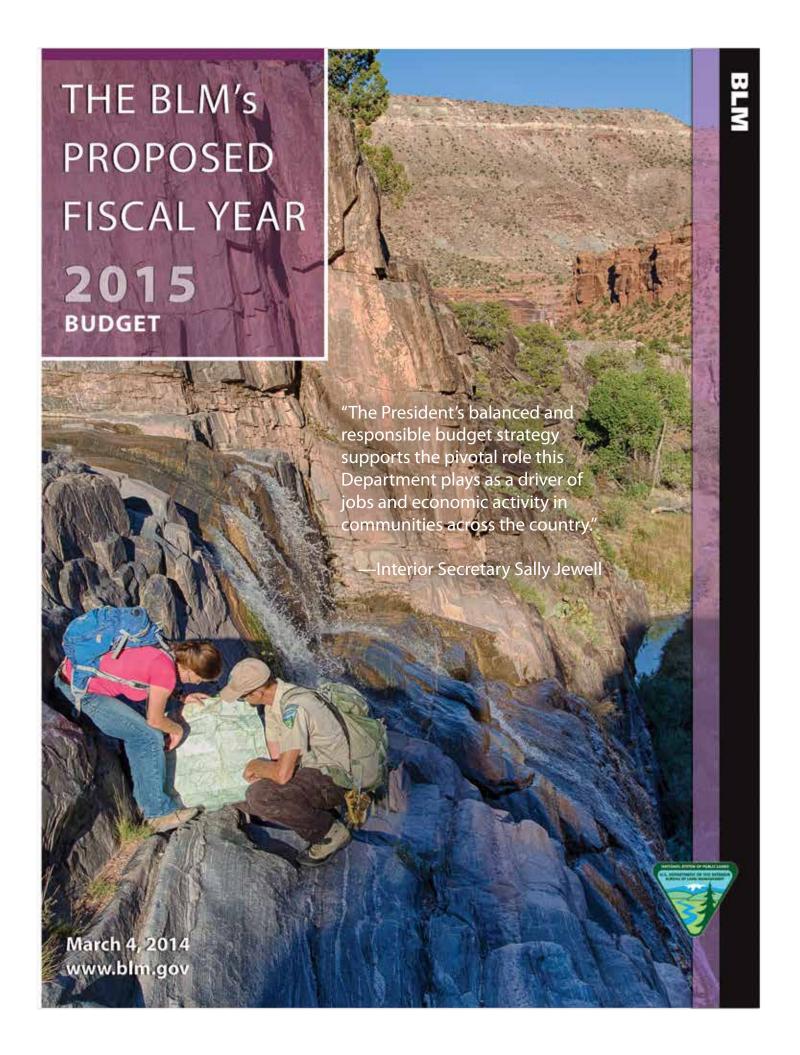


Enterprise Geospatial System: As the nation's premier land management agency, the BLM must keep pace with technological developments by expanding its use of geospatial mapping. The 2015 budget proposal recognizes this need with \$3.8 million for robust implementation of the BLM's enterprise geospatial system. Such an expansion would include

the aggregation of BLM's data across administrative units, the centralization of these data in an enterprise system that supports all programs and offices, and the delivery of data to both desktop and mobile computers throughout the agency. The enterprise geospatial system would support accurate, effective analysis and decisionmaking relating to key landscape-scale initiatives, such

as the greater sage-grouse habitat conservation plan (to obviate the listing of the bird as a threatened or endangered species), renewable energy development, rapid ecoregional assessments (to better understand landscape conditions), climate change adaptations, and regional mitigation of impacts to public land resources and values.







PROTECTING RESOURCES AND MANAGING USES OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may best be described as a small agency with a big mission—that of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau administers more public land (over 245 million surface acres) than any other Federal agency, with most of this land located in the 12 western states, including Alaska. The BLM also manages 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation.

The public lands and resources administered by the BLM benefit the nation as a whole, as well as local communities, both economically and environmentally. Communities throughout the West are supported and strengthened through activities, goods, and services associated with resources on public lands. The BLM strives to be a "can-do" agency in managing these resources and is committed to working in partnership with government agencies, organizations, and interested stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels.

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the BLM manages the public lands for multiple uses and the sustained yield of resources, facilitating such uses as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting, while protecting a wide array of natural, cultural, and historical resources. Many of these resources are found within the BLM's 27-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System.

President Obama's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget enables the BLM to create jobs and enhance the nation's economic growth. Toward that end, the agency generated \$4.7 billion in revenues in FY 2013, returning more than \$4 for every \$1 spent on BLM operations. With a budget translating into an allocation of only \$4.50 per acre, the BLM generates more than \$125 billion in economic output for the nation and supports more than 635,000 jobs through resource development and recreational uses of public lands.

THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The President's 2015 budget request seeks \$954.1 million for the management of lands and resources appropriation and \$104.0 million for the Oregon and California grant lands appropriation, the BLM's two major operating accounts. The total BLM budget request, partially offset by new fee collections, reflects a decrease of \$5.6 million below the 2014 enacted budget level.

Under the President's budget for 2015, the BLM—with a workforce of about 10,000 employees—would continue to be a key player in the Department of the Interior's efforts to pursue Federal oil and gas reforms that support the responsible development of these resources. The President's 2015 budget proposes an increase of \$20.3 million above the 2014 enacted level (\$113.4 million) for the BLM's oil and gas management

program. This request includes both direct appropriations and funding fees for services provided to oil and gas producers conducting operations on Federal lands. The request includes an increase of \$5.2 million to provide staffing, training, and other resources needed to strengthen operational guidance to BLM offices. The request also includes \$4.6 million to strengthen the BLM's core oversight, leasing, and permitting capabilities, enabling the agency to keep up with industry demand and workload.

As for renewable energy, the President's budget proposal would maintain funding for renewable energy support at \$29.2 million, essentially the same as the 2014 enacted level.

The President's budget also proposes a total of \$15 million, equal to the 2014 enacted level, to implement broad-scale sage-grouse planning and conservation activities (including amendment or revision of 98 land-use plans to designate priority habitat); to perform

habitat restoration and improvement; and to map, assess, and monitor that habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to decide by 2015 whether the ground-dwelling bird should be listed as a threatened or endangered species, which carries implications throughout the West for energy development, outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and fire management.

The BLM would continue to play a key role in reconnecting individuals to nature through the America's Great Outdoors initiative. Accordingly, the 2015 budget request includes an increase of \$1.9 million to strengthen management of national monuments and national conservation areas—key units of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System that feature some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. Approximately 60 million visits take place on BLM-managed lands every year.

The BLM's top four budget priorities are as follows:

Oil and Gas Inspection and

Enforcement: The President's budget proposes to expand and strengthen the BLM's inspection and oversight capability through fees comparable to those assessed for offshore inspections. This funding would help the agency fully implement a risk-based inspection strategy to improve production

accountability, safety, and environmental protection of oil and gas operations. The budget proposal calls for an inspection fee schedule estimated to generate \$48.0 million in offsetting collections, allowing for a proposed savings of \$38.0 million in appropriated funds, while providing an increase of \$10.0 million to enhance the Bureau's inspection capability.



BLM Foundation: The 2015 budget proposal recognizes the need for a congressionally chartered BLM foundation that would allow the agency to encourage, accept, and administer private funding and property for the benefit of the public lands. The foundation would be established as a charitable, nonprofit organization and

would allow the BLM to broaden its partnership capabilities on a national scale. The establishment of such a foundation would put the BLM on similar footing with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service, each of which benefits from private foundation assistance.

Wild Horse and Burro Population

Control: The President's budget proposal seeks a \$2.8 million increase for the wild horse and burro program that would enable the BLM to accelerate its implementation of the recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences in a June 2013 report. The additional funds would focus on research of population-control methods, a critical component in controlling program costs. The BLM has already issued a request for applications for proposed studies and pilot projects (from veterinarians, scientists, universities, and other researchers) to help develop innovative techniques and protocols for implementing population growth suppression methods.

The BLM estimates that 40,605 wild horses and burros (about 33,780 horses and 6,825 burros) are roaming on BLM-managed rangelands in 10 western states, based on the latest data available, compiled as of February 28, 2013. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators, and their herd sizes can double about every 4 years. The estimated current free-roaming population exceeds by nearly 14,000 the number that the BLM has determined can exist in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses.



